

Sept. 4
Labor Day

Sept. 16-30
Litter Sweep

Oct. 13-22
N.C. State Fair

Nov. 23
Thanksgiving

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Is a biannual newsletter published by the Office of Beautification Programs of the North Carolina Department of Transportation. It is mailed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and other interested groups to keep them informed about litter control and prevention activities.

Governor

Michael F. Easley

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Lyndo Tippet

Beautification Director

Helen Landi

State Adopt-A-Highway

Coordinator

Anne Walker

Editor

George Kapetanakis

Graphic Designer

Jer Warren

www.ncdot.org/~beautification

1-800-331-5864

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Litterature

Biannual Newsletter

Summer 2006

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Featured Group

As a member of three AAH groups, Clark Moore of Cashiers is featured in this issue of *Litterature*. Clark has a lengthy resume, which includes being an airline pilot, working in administration and joining the International Air Transport Association. He worked



Clark Moore, a resident of Cashiers since 1981

in the association in Paris, France for 14 years and then in Geneva, Switzerland for 12 years. He moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota with his wife when he retired. His friends recommended they visit Cashiers, and in 1981 they made Cashiers their new home. During the past 25 years, Clark became an active leader in the Cashiers Chamber of Commerce, as well as a strong advocate of a litter free community.

As a good steward of the environment and Cashiers, Clark solicited other area residents to help with annual roadside litter cleanups. Soon he realized that the Adopt-A-Highway Program would offer the support and provide the frequency of cleanups to keep the community litter free.

Currently, he is involved in three Adopt-A-Highway groups – Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley, Cashiers United Methodist Men's Club and

the 107 South Trash Busters group that is comprised of High Hampton Inn, Chattooga Woods, Wade Golf Club and Found Forrest. The original contract dates are 1994, 2000, and 1989 respectively.

Clark talked about working with the Sheriff's Department to catch those culprits that litter our roadways. "They need to be stopped. When litterers are caught, they need to be placed on community service work, so they think twice before littering again. And those with pick-up trucks should cover their loads to prevent trash from blowing out," said Clark.

Here are some more excerpts from our conversation.

GK: It appears everyone in Cashiers knows you. How did you get the community involved in litter cleanups?

CM: When I was with the Chamber of Commerce, I organized an annual cleanup of our roads. This needed to be done more often and with more people. So, we formed the 107 South Trash Buster AAH Group, but more volunteers were needed. I worked with the Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley and then Cashiers United Methodists Men's Club to adopt a road. I participate with each of these groups in roadside litter cleanups.

GK: What's the most unusual litter found?

CM: We found a wallet with a driver license and were able to notify the owner in Spartansburg, S.C. to return it. She was happy to get it back. Another item was a car exhaust muffler, but mostly what we find is trash, beer bottles, soft drink containers, Styrofoam cups and, at times, clothing.

GK: How do you get the volunteers to participate in roadside litter removal?

CM: Once I receive the Litter Sweep packet, I have the information placed in our local newspaper to stimulate volunteers to join in the cleanup.

GK: What do you do in your spare time?

CM: I enjoy playing golf especially when my score matches or is lower than my age. I recently played Augusta National with a friend. The greens were a challenge, but I still scored a 93. Not bad for someone that is 86!

GK: It was a pleasure visiting with you. I admire your tenacity to keep



107 South Trash Busters has been one of North Carolina's pioneer AAH groups for 17 years, 1989 to present.

Cashiers a litter-free community.

From everyone in the NCDOT Office of Beautification Programs, we congratulate you and everyone in Cashiers for striving to make North Carolina a cleaner and better place to live.

Spring Litter Sweep Results

During the 2006 Spring Litter Sweep, state agencies and statewide volunteers removed 170,000 garbage bags containing 2.5 million pounds of roadside litter. This does not include debris that was either too heavy or too large to fit into the bags.

NCDOT employees, Department of Correction inmate crews, Community Service Work Program participants, Adopt-A-Highway groups and volunteers from civic groups and community organizations such as N.C. Keep America Beautiful affiliates and N.C. Big Sweep participated. DOC inmate crews from 57 prison facilities picked up litter along 7,200 roadside miles.

The NCDOT released the following litter

collection figures:

- 29,223 bags were collected by NCDOT crews;
- 65,883 bags were collected by inmates on DOC road squads and Community Work Program;
- 3,340 bags were collected by Community Service Work Program; and
- 72,740 bags were collected by Adopt-A-Highway and Litter Sweep volunteers statewide.

The N.C. State Highway Patrol focused on littering and unsecured loads during the Litter Sweep and issued 130 citations. If convicted, penalties can include up to a \$2,000 fine, a driver license point and community service work hours.

"Most Unusual Litter" Contest Winners

Entries in the "Most Unusual Litter" Contest once again confirmed that North Carolina is faced with a wide variety of roadside trash. Winning unusual items during the 2006 Spring Litter Sweep included the first place entry of a check from 1947, two different entries for dentures tied for second place, and a third place entry of a home security box. Winners and photos can be viewed by visiting the Office of Beautification Programs at www.ncdot.org/~beautification and clicking on the Litter Sweep link.



1st place winner
Check from 1947
Zebulon First Baptist Church



2nd place winner
False Teeth
In Memory of Chad Keith "DFG"



2nd place winner
False Teeth
Loving Memory of Patrick W. Torbush



3rd place winner
Home Security Box
Slate Mountain Extension Club

AAH Safety Tips

Prior to participating in an AAH Pickup:

- Remind volunteers to view the safety and meth lab videos on our Web site www.ncdot.org/~beautification/highway.
- Hold a safety meeting to review safety procedures.
- Inspect your stretch to verify there are no hazardous items on the roadside.

During an AAH Pickup:

- Never pick up hazardous materials. Notify your local DOT of the location for such items for removal of these items.
- Children, 12-17 years of age, may participate, but must have adequate supervision.
- In addition to orange safety vests, wear brightly colored clothes to be more visible to traffic and to protect arms and legs.
- Do not pick up litter on the road or close to the edge of the road.
- Do not pick up litter in construction sites and tunnels or on bridges or overpasses.
- Walk facing traffic with the highway to your right.
- Drink fluids and take breaks; do not overexert yourself.

Stormwater Facts

Questions:

1. Is stormwater mainly an urban or rural problem?
2. Does industry contribute to stormwater pollution?

Answers:

1. Stormwater runoff comes from paved urban communities and neighborhood backyards, as well as pastures and agricultural fields.
2. Industry along with construction, urban and agricultural environments contribute to stormwater pollution.

AAH Coordinator Profile

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator of the Year

By George Kapetanakis

AAH Coordinator Profile:

Judy Bumgarner

Title: Processing Assistant III

Division: 14

Location: Sylva, Jackson County

Years as AAH Coordinator: 14

Judy Bumgarner wears many hats in her day-to-day responsibilities within the N.C. Department of Transportation, including being an Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator. Judy's tasks include working as a receptionist, processing daily time sheets for sub-contractor and lease equipment, as well as, processing data into BSIP for gravel, asphalt, salt and sand. Judy also handles Citizen Action Requests by writing the requests and submitting to her supervisor for work scheduling.

Judy has been with the NCDOT for 18 years. Of all her responsibilities, she enjoys that of being the Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator best. She simply likes having clean, pristine areas – litter free – everything in its place. In her spare time, Judy enjoys reading – newspapers, magazines and novels. Judy also enjoys mowing her 5½ acres of lawn. She and her husband each have their own riding lawn mower. They do the yard work together often.

I spoke with Judy in a phone interview and realized the Jackson County Adopt-A-Highway groups are important to her. She is extremely dedicated and committed to ensuring that Jackson County is litter-free.

Here are the questions and answers from our discussion:

GK: Tell me about the number of adopted roads and the number of roads you have open for adoption.

JB: I am very fortunate. Jackson



County has a great pool of volunteers participating in the Adopt-A-Highway Program. I have 121 groups that have adopted 220 miles, and all but 15 miles of the four-lane roads are adopted. There are nearly 200 miles that are open for volunteers to adopt.

GK: Tell me about the groups you administer.

JB: Currently I have a high percentage of students that are adopting roads. Right next door to our office we have Southwestern Community College and several miles away we have Western Carolina University. Each year I am asked to present the Adopt-A-Highway Program to students at the Governor's School of Excellence, and I truly enjoy doing it. Three fourths of my groups are from these schools.

GK: What are some challenges you face?

JB: One challenge is finding enough time to spend on the Adopt-A-Highway program. I like to get out and work with these groups, especially the river cleanups. The students are great. We are fortunate for the local business support. They not only get out to help pick up litter, but also sponsor their own unusual litter contest and a picnic afterward.

Another challenge is keeping on top of the roadside litter. During the past two years we have had to call for

more inmate labor to help with the cleanup. There has also been some illegal dumping on several pull offs on State Route 107.

GK: Judy what do you do in your spare time?

JB: I am an outdoors person and enjoy mowing my lawn. My husband and I get out to mow the lawn together using our riding mowers. I like the look of a manicured lawn and everything looking picture perfect. I think that is why I find litter so distasteful. It is just so out of place with nature and the natural order of things.

Judy has decided to retire as of August 2006. From all of us in the NCDOT and the Office of Beautification Programs, we wish you well in your retirement and congratulate you on your many years of dedicated service to the NCDOT, the AAH program and the AAH groups. Our thanks to everyone for their efforts in keeping Jackson County free of litter.

IDDEP Update

The NCDOT Highway Stormwater Program began its Illegal Discharge Detection and Elimination Program in 1999.

The purpose of the program is to detect and eliminate illegal drainage connections. Most illegal discharges occur from household activities, such as wastewater from washing machines.

The program also identifies and removes hazardous waste material from along the state's roadway system. Most roadside hazardous waste comes from the illegal dumping of waste material such as used oil, concrete and empty containers.